



Outside Edge Theatre Company (OETC) is a charity which provides on-going rehabilitation through improvisational participatory theatre workshops and productions for people who are dependent or otherwise affected by substance-misuse. Founded in 1999 by Phil Fox, himself an actor and recovering heroin user, OETC works from the premise that engaging in performance and exploring issues through interactive drama has the ability to bring about positive change.

The work of our organisation is based on applied theatre models, working with and for people affected by addiction at all stages of recovery. We are committed to working with those who have limited theatrical experience but the ambition and drive to learn and develop existing skills, ensuring all those involved in our projects are treated as creative equals. Collectively, we showcase the experiences of those affected by substance misuse and the potential it has to impact upon a wide range of social issues, including domestic violence, child abuse, young people at risk, mental illness and homelessness.

The skills that our participants develop are not just for the theatre; our participants find that they can use their newly-developed theatre skills in all walks of life, including job interviews, improving communication with family and friends and engaging more fully in society in general.

We use theatre and performing arts to give people affected by addiction a voice, ultimately enabling them to reach and recognise their potential, find an identity and build life skills and confidence to support their recovery. Our way of working creates a unique support network, meaning all those involved are free to discuss issues and personal problems with people who understand such trauma and sensitive issues. A deep understanding for such concerns and commitment to truth is not possible outside of these foundations. A person experiencing trauma is considerably more likely to open up in such an environment, in a place they know others will understand and not pass judgement; we believe this network is key to recovery.

Currently, we have five workshops:

Our **Drop-In Theatre Workshop** is held on a weekly basis for people in recovery from substance misuse. The drop-in workshop is a safe introduction to drama and to Outside Edge. It is suitable for those who may have little or no experience of drama and are in early stages of recovery. The group is committed to building confidence in a fun and relaxed environment, as well as focus and commitment from our participants, skills those in recovery often struggle with.

Edge Two is a weekly workshop for participants who would like to continue to develop their dramatic skills and who are more established in their recovery. The sessions focus on securing a greater understanding of drama as a tool for supporting recovery. The group devises performances for invited audiences.



The Outside Edge Company, the more advanced group, offers workshops for professional actors and performers who are stable within their own recovery and able to commit to professional productions and theatre tours. The Company devises some of the pieces which we use when touring to rehabilitation and social services centres and also provides a group for apprentices and training for leading or supporting some of our other groups.

Women's Theatre Workshop is a safe and friendly weekly session for women who are in recovery and who are seeking to develop new skills. No experience of drama is necessary; we welcome those in early stages of recovery. The Women's Group aims to increase confidence; be a safe and friendly support group and foster personal creativity. We ask that participants are abstinent on the day of the workshop.

From April 2017 we have been working with FIRM (Fun in Recovery Management) to deliver our women's group. FIRM will provide complementary therapies and a hot meal in a relaxed social environment after the drama group delivered by us.

Write Now is for people at all stages of recovery, who have been affected by addiction, are returning to recovery after relapse or those who want regular a creative writing opportunity as part of their on-going recovery maintenance. This workshop is a safe space to share stories and build confidence, to support each other and to challenge the social stigma that people in recovery often feel. We ask that participants are abstinent on the day of the workshop; however, those on low-level scripts are welcome.

We invite you to visit our web site (www.edgetc.org) to learn more about our company or to contact us if you any questions or would like further information please email recruitment@edgetc.org